



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CHP SAYS BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading killers in California for children ages 14 years and under, with unrestrained or improperly restrained children being the number one contributing factor.

To combat the problem of improperly restrained passengers, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) received a \$1 million dollar federal grant from the Office of Traffic Safety. Funds from the "California Occupant Restraint Campaign" will provide the CHP with the means to strengthen its enforcement and education efforts statewide through a combination of seat belt and safety seat-usage surveys and child passenger safety presentations.

"Protecting your children should be your number one priority," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "Making sure that they are properly secured in safety seats is one way to do that."

In addition to conducting community outreach and enforcement measures to increase seat belt and child restraint usage, the grant's goals are to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries in collisions. Objectives are to provide comprehensive traffic safety seminars and classes, conduct child safety seat inspections, distribute safety seats and conduct a statewide occupant restraint day. Furthermore, the grant provides training to certify employees, as well as employees from allied agencies to become child passenger safety technicians.

"Remember to set a good example for your little one by buckling up yourself," Commissioner Farrow added.

You may report unrestrained children in a motor vehicle to the CHP by calling 1-800-TELL CHP.

The California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provided funding for the project. The CHP plans to continue using grant-funded projects to make California's highways safer for motorists.

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